

CLAIMS

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all
1. A method of enabling a user to designate, in a computer system, at least one geographic location, the method including the steps of:
- 5 printing a map of a geographic area, the geographic area including the at least one geographic location, the map including coded data indicative of an identity of the map and of a plurality of reference points of the map;
- receiving, in the computer system, indicating data from a sensing device operated by the user, the indicating data regarding the identity of the map and a position
- 10 of the sensing device relative to the map, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the map, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data; and
- identifying, in the computer system and from the indicating data, the at least one geographic location.
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2. A method according to claim 1 including the further steps of:
- receiving, in the computer system, movement data regarding movement of the sensing device relative to the map, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the map using at least some of the coded data; and
- 20 identifying, in the computer system and from the movement data, a geographic region.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the map contains at least one of the following categories of map information:
- 25 (a) geographic features of the geographic area;
- (b) cities in the geographic area;
- (c) countries related to the geographic area;
- (d) different views of the geographic area;

- (e) topography of the geographic area;
- (f) vegetation of the geographic area;
- (g) average rainfall for the geographic area;
- (h) seasonal temperatures for the geographic area; and
- 5 (i) population for the geographical area.

10 4. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 including the further step of printing at least one map control, and, when the map control is designated by the user using the sensing device, performing, in the computer system, an action associated with the map control.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the action is one of:

- (a) printing information about a designated country, region, city or other geographic location or geographic area;
- 15 (b) printing a map of a designated geographic region;
- (c) printing a distance between designated geographic locations;
- (d) printing a map of a geographic area adjoining a particular geographic area; and
- (f) printing a scaled-up or scaled-down map of a particular geographic area.

Sub 20 6. A system for enabling a user to designate, in a computer system, at least one geographic location, the system including:

a map of a geographic area, the geographic area including the at least one geographic location, the map including coded data indicative of an identity of the map and of a plurality of reference points of the map;

25 a printer for printing the map, including the coded data, on demand; and

a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device operated by the user, the indicating data regarding the identity of the map and a position of the

sensing device relative to the map, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the map, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data;

wherein the computer system is configured to identify, from the indicating data,
5 the at least one geographic location.

7. A system according to claim 6 including the sensing device, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the map using at least some of the coded data; wherein the computer system is configured to identify, from said movement, a geographic region.

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8. A system according to claim 7 wherein the map contains at least one of the following categories of map information:

- (a) geographic features of the geographic area;
- (b) cities in the geographic area;
- 15 (c) countries related to the geographic area;
- (d) different views of the geographic area;
- (e) topography of the geographic area;
- (f) vegetation of the geographic area;
- (g) average rainfall for the geographic area;
- 20 (h) seasonal temperatures for the geographic area; and
- (i) population for the geographical area.

9. A system according to claim 6 or claim 7 further including a map control page including at least one printed map control; wherein the computer system is configured to
25 perform an action associated with the map control when the map control is designated by the user using the sensing device.

10. A system according to claim 9 wherein the action is one of:

- (a) printing information about a designated country, region, city or other geographic location or geographic area;
- (b) printing a map of a designated geographic area;
- 5 (c) printing a distance between designated geographic locations;
- (d) printing a map of a geographic area adjoining a particular geographic area; and
- (f) printing a scaled-up or scaled-down map of a particular geographic area.

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10 11. A system for enabling a user to designate, in a computer system, at least one geographic location, the system including:

a globe, the globe including coded data indicative of a plurality of reference points of the globe;

15 a computer system for receiving indicating data from a sensing device operated by the user, the indicating data regarding a position of the sensing device relative to the surface of the globe, the sensing device, when placed in an operative position relative to the surface of the globe, sensing the indicating data using at least some of the coded data;

wherein the computer system is configured to identify, from the indicating data, the at least one geographic location.

20 12. A system according to claim 11 including the sensing device, the sensing device sensing its movement relative to the globe using at least some of the coded data; wherein the computer system is configured to identify, from said movement, a geographic region.